

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

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MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release
June 7, 2005

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Assessing DHS's Mission Effectiveness

Is It Meeting the Terrorist Threat?

Government Reform to Question Secretary Chertoff

**What: Government Reform Committee Oversight Hearing:
"Assessing the Department of Homeland Security's Mission
Effectiveness: Is it Enough to Meet the Terrorist Threat?"**

When: THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 2005 at 10:00 A.M.

Where: ROOM 2154, RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

Background:

This hearing will assess the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) overall effectiveness in meeting its core mission and specifically its operations, management, and opportunities for performance improvement. The Government Reform Committee has direct responsibility for assuring that areas such as personnel management, agency organization and integration, procurement and utilization of technology, information sharing, and information security are receiving adequate attention and that Congressional policies regarding these issues are being implemented throughout DHS.

DHS was created in response to the terrorist attacks of 9/11. The Department's wide-reaching mission is critical to the safety of the nation. According to the FY 2006 DHS Budget in Brief, this mission is to "lead the unified efforts to secure America, prevent and deter terrorist attacks and protect against and respond to threats and hazards to the nation, ensure safe and secure borders, welcome lawful immigrants and visitors, and promote the free-flow of commerce."

In the most massive government reorganization since 1947, the new Department integrated 23 separate agencies and bureaus, employs over 180,000 people, has a budget of \$38.5 billion for Fiscal Year 2005 and a proposed budget of \$41.1 billion for Fiscal Year

2006, and spends an estimated \$11 billion on contracted services. **With the large investment of taxpayer resources and the critical nature of the Department's mission, it is vital to determine how well the Department is functioning to meet the terrorist threat and to provide adequate protection to our citizens.**

WITNESSES

The Honorable Michael Chertoff, Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security

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